



STx Designs and the RoHS Directive

RoHS Directive.

Effective July 1, 2006, the European Union (EU) enacted a directive for the Removal of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) from electrical and electronic equipment that are sold into the EU. Chief among these banned items was lead, which was used as the main bonding agent in electronic circuit boards and on semiconductor leads.

Beginning January 1, 2007, STx has completely switched all of its new engineering designs and current manufacture of existing electronic circuit boards and products to be compliant with the RoHS directive.

What STx does.

Starting with the design phase, only RoHS compliant parts are specified by our engineers. Once the Bill of Material is generated, the parts selected are again checked to verify that they meet the RoHS directive. From this action we create a parts library of suitable parts and alternatives for current and future designs to incorporate.

On our existing products, we have gone back through the Bills of Material and specified the new RoHS equivalent for the original part. Any parts that did not have a direct RoHS equivalent were changed to be in compliance and these changes were verified with our engineers.

Next we needed to review and adjust our assembly process to accommodate the higher temperature requirements of the RoHS parts. We adjusted the temperature profiles for the numerous boards we offer, so that during the wave-soldering process we had the correct bonding of the components to the board while keeping the overall heat within the range of those components. This is an on-going program, we continue to review and tweak our processes to ensure a secure bond without degrading the life expectancy of the components.

What this means to the End-User.

What this means for you is that any products or designs you purchase from STx will allow you to import or sell products into the EU with confidence. This includes all items from the discrete components we use to the raw printed circuit board itself.

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